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TS 77925

#3

17 December 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR LT. COLONEL JOHN W. VOGT  
JCS Planning Board Assistant

SUBJECT: Insertion of Intelligence Material in Southeast  
Asia Special Annex

1. As you know, the JAC approved SE-53 on 15 December, and a spare copy is attached. It bears particularly on the proposals stated in paras. 8 and 9 of the Special Annex. Although it is a split paper, the basic policy moral could be put in without getting into the difference of degree that caused the split. A suggested wording, to be added to para. 8 f., would be:

"f. . . . . intervention. In the initial stages of the proposed action, the Chinese Communists would probably take action short of open intervention in force, while observing developments. If the leaders of Communist China and the USSR came to believe that decisive defeat of the Viet Minh armed forces was likely, the chances would be at least substantial, and possibly better than even, that Communist China would openly intervene in force to prevent this result."

2. In dealing with para. 9, the estimate concluded that the Chicom reactions would be about the same, initially at least, as for para. 8. If Viet Minh defeat appeared likely, the estimate concluded that the existence of strong US forces near the borders of Communist China would create the substantial chance of Chicom intervention. However, the picture might well be different if US forces had by then been withdrawn or greatly reduced -- a point as to which the outline of the plan is not clear, and perhaps could not be. Suggest covering by adding to para. 9 d.:

"d. . . . . Communism. The chances of eventual Chinese Communist intervention in force would be substantial if Viet Minh defeat appeared likely, especially if substantial US forces remained at that time in Indochina."

3. You will recall the Planning Board discussion of

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accompanying warnings to Peiping. This is stated as Assumption 6 for SE-53, and heavily affects the conclusions. Presumably you will wish to embody this as an assumption in your work.

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NSC Board Assistant

Attach.

WPR/vcl

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